



# The Fight to Protect Reproductive Freedom

AUGUST 17, 2022

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# Roe Has Been Overturned

- ▶ On Friday, June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court reversed *Roe v. Wade*, overturning the constitutional right to abortion, upheld for nearly a half century
- ▶ The court majority said that the 1973 *Roe* ruling "must be overruled" because they were "egregiously wrong," and the arguments "exceptionally weak" and "damaging"
- ▶ Joining the majority were Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas, appointed by the first President Bush, and the three Trump appointees — Justices Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett. Chief Justice John Roberts, appointed by President George W. Bush, concurred in the judgment only.
  - ▶ Both Presidents George W. Bush and Trump lost the popular vote
- ▶ Dissenting were Justices Stephen Breyer, appointed by President Clinton, and Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan, appointed by President Obama. They said the majority court's opinion means that "from the very moment of fertilization, a woman has no rights to speak of"

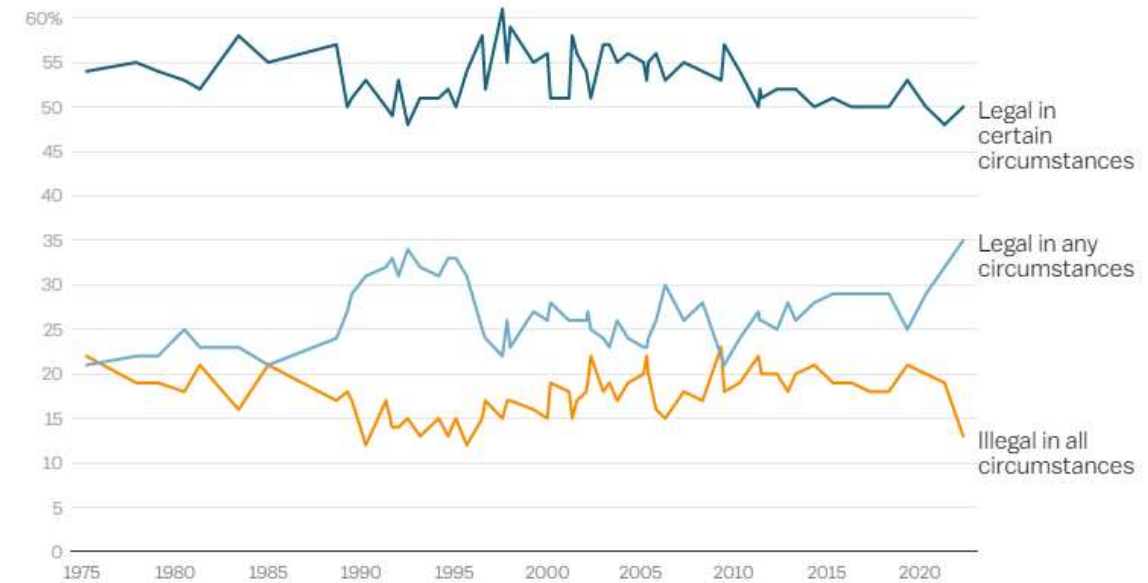
*"With sorrow — for this Court, but more, for the many millions of American women who have today lost a fundamental constitutional protection — we dissent"*

# California's Abortion Laws Have Not Changed

- ▶ Although the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* will have devastating consequences for people around the country, **the decision did not change California's state law** that abortion is legal up until the fetus is viable, but is always legal when necessary to protect the health or life of the woman
- ▶ In response to the Supreme Court's decision, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 1666 into law, which protects out-of-state patients who travel to California for an abortion from lawsuits in other states. It also protects providers who come to the state to give an abortion
- ▶ Some predict wait times for abortions may increase in California due to increase out-of-state demand

# Public Opinion on Reproductive Freedom

- ▶ 85% of American voters of both parties think abortion should be legal in some or all circumstances, according to a long-running Gallup survey, an increase of 10 percentage points since Roe was decided



# House Democrats' Response

- ▶ Following the Supreme Court's decision, the House Democratic Majority has been hard at work passing legislation to protect reproductive freedoms, including:
  - ▶ **The Women's Health Protection Act**, which would once again make the protections of *Roe v. Wade* the law of the land.
  - ▶ **The Ensuring Women's Right to Reproductive Freedom Act** – a bill stopping Republicans from criminalizing, fining, or suing individuals who exercise their constitutional right to travel across state lines to obtain an abortion.
  - ▶ **The Right to Contraception Act**, which would guarantee the right to obtain and use birth control as established in *Griswold*.
- ▶ House Democrats are also working to develop legislation to protect intimate and personal data stored in reproductive health apps. Many fear that this information could be used against women by a sinister prosecutor in a state that criminalizes abortion.
- ▶ Unfortunately, without temporarily suspending or abolishing the filibuster, this legislation has not yet passed in the U.S. Senate.

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